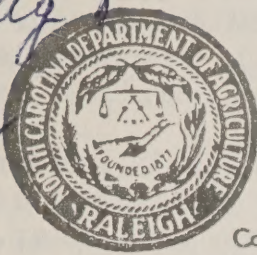


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Cooperative Crop Reporting Service

NO. 186

RALEIGH, N. C.

JUNE 20, 1955

# CROP OUTLOOK VARIABLE ON JUNE 1

Soil moisture conditions were mostly good around June 1, although some local areas still remained dry. This was particularly true in northern Piedmont and some northern mountain counties.

Cool nights during the previous few weeks had not been highly favorable to growing crops, and condition of these crops appeared to be somewhat spotted.

Corn had gotten off to a very good

(See "CROP OUTLOOK" Page 3)

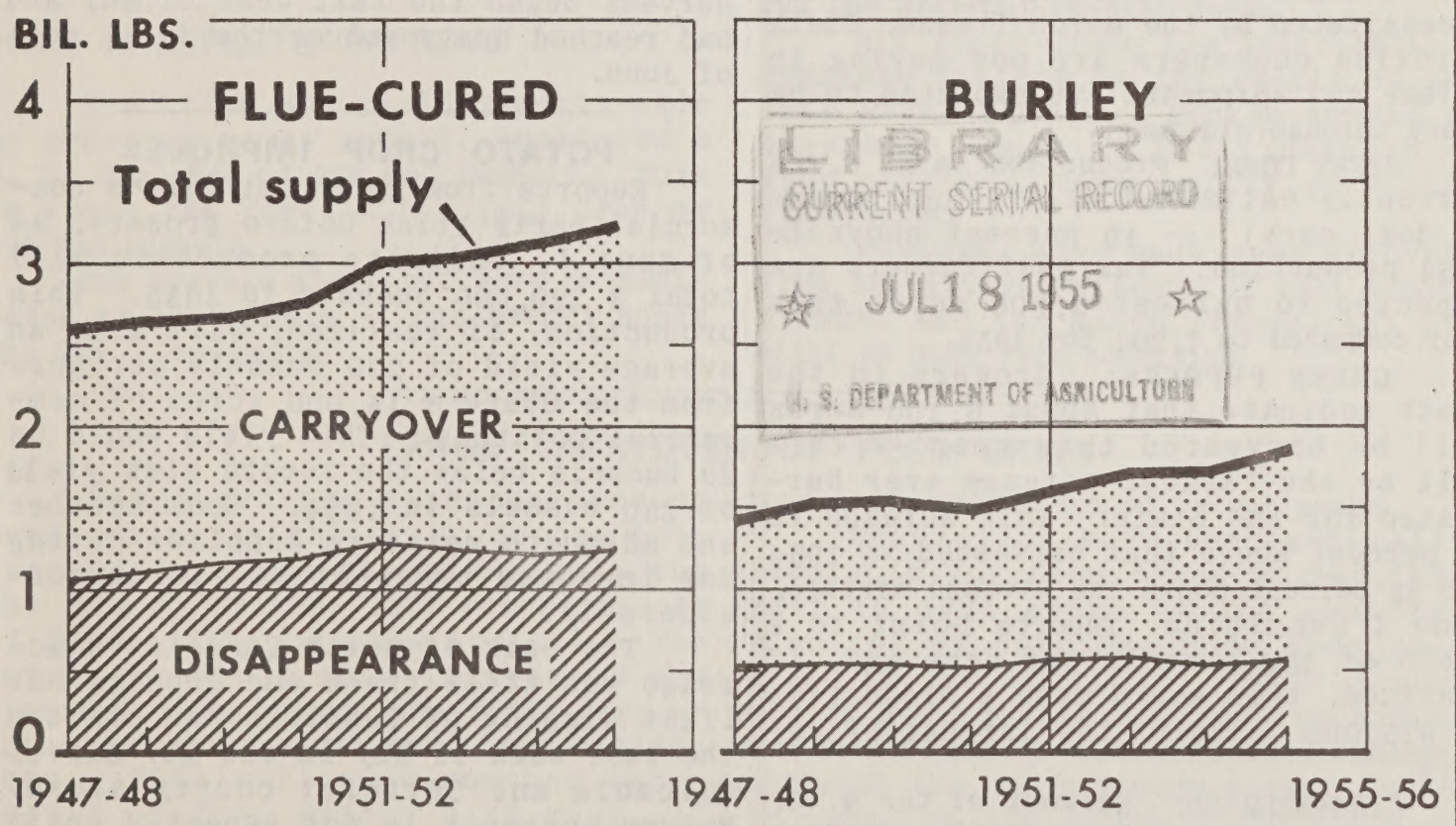
## TOBACCO OUTLOOK REVIEWED

Domestic consumption of flue-cured, the leading cigarette tobacco, during the July 1954-June 1955 marketing year seems likely to be slightly less than a year earlier. However, exports are expected to total about 5 percent larger and raise total disappearance a little above that of 1953-54. Exports of flue-

(See "TOBACCO" Page 4)



## SUPPLY AND DISAPPEARANCE OF FLUE-CURED AND BURLEY TOBACCO



DATA FOR 1954-55 ARE PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES



## HEAVY PRODUCTION OF SOME TRUCK CROPS EXPECTED

**CABBAGE:** Reports from Tar Heel growers as of June 1, indicate that production from the State's 2,400 acres of late Spring cabbage will be about 9,600 tons, with an average yield of 4.0 tons per acre. This compares with 15,400 tons produced in 1954 and an average yield of 7.0 tons per acre.

**CANTALOUPS:** A preliminary estimate of the cantaloup acreage for the State shows 5,400 acres for 1955 -- 15 percent above the 4,700 acres harvested in 1954. The June 1 condition reports indicate a production of 270,000 crates and a yield of 50 crates per acre. Production in 1954 was 188,000 crates with an average yield of 40 crates per acre.

**CUCUMBERS:** Reports from N. C. growers on June 1 point to a crop of about 650,000 bushels for fresh market, or an average yield of 100 bushels per acre on the 6,500 acres for harvest. If realized, this will be the largest production since 1930.

Dry weather in Louisiana until around May 20 held down yield prospects. The Alabama crop is generally in good condition and volume movement is expected about mid-June. Early May rains have helped the crop in Georgia but harvesting will be delayed by replanting necessitated by the March freeze. South Carolina cucumbers are now moving in volume and shipments are expected to be heavy through mid-June.

**SWEET CORN:** Production in N. C. is currently estimated at 672,000 units (5 doz. ears) -- 10 percent above the 1954 production. Tar Heel farmers are expected to harvest 7,900 acres this year compared to 7,200 for 1954.

**GREEN PEPPERS:** Growers in the State indicate that about 6,100 acres will be harvested this year -- this will be the largest acreage ever harvested for the State. This acreage is 20 percent above that harvested in 1954 and 51 percent above the average acreage. June 1 condition reports point to a yield of 150 bushels per acre and, if realized, this would mean a production of 915,000 bushels, the largest of record.

**STRAWBERRIES:** Harvest of the N. C. strawberry crop was practically complete by June 1. The 1955 crop was the smallest of record for the State as only 38,000 crates were produced. This is

72 percent below the small 1954 production. The heavy freeze damage during late March was primarily responsible for the very low yields realized by most growers.

**TOMATOES:** The N. C. early summer tomato crop is currently estimated at 2,600 acres, the same as last year. Condition, as of June 1, indicates a production of 221,000 bushels -- an average yield of 85 bushels per acre. This compares with 208,000 bushels produced during 1954 and an average yield of 80 bushels per acre. Harvest is expected to begin during early June in the southern part of the State and during the latter half of June in the Carteret and Currituck county areas.

**WATERMELONS:** According to reports from growers, 14,000 acres of watermelons have been planted for harvest in N. C. this year. Condition reports, as of June 1, indicate an average yield of 215 melons per acre and a total production of 3,010,000 melons. If realized, this will be the largest production since 1944 for the State. Tar Heel farmers harvested 2,365,000 melons from 11,000 acres in 1954.

**SNAP BEANS:** The State's late Spring snap bean crop for fresh market is currently estimated at 442,000 bushels. This is 11 percent below the 495,000 bushels produced last year. Harvest began the last week of May and had reached heavy volume the first week of June.

## POTATO CROP IMPROVES

Reports from North Carolina's commercial early Irish potato growers, as of June 1, indicate production will total 3,220,000 bushels in 1955. This production, if realized, will mean an average yield of 230 bushels per acre from the State's 14,000 acres of commercial potatoes. This yield would be 20 bushels below the record high yield of 250 bushels in 1954. Cool weather and adequate moisture supplies during May improved prospective yields considerably.

The bulk of North Carolina's acreage was still green and growing but light digging of Cobblers had started the last week of May in the Mt. Olive, Columbia and Carteret county areas. Volume movement is not expected until the second week of June.

The California crop at 30,800,000

(See "POTATO CROP" Page 3)



## **POTATO CROP** *(Continued From Page 2)*

bushels, is up 2,800,000 bushels from May 1 and compares with the 1954 production of 22,800,000.

The total U. S. production of late spring potatoes is placed at 38,858,000 bushels, 3,553,000 bushels above the forecast of a month ago. Production in 1954 was 33,967,000 and the 10-year average is 41,044,000 bushels.

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## **WHEAT PRODUCTION**

### **PROSPECTS IMPROVE**

Production prospects for North Carolina's 1955 wheat crop improved considerably during May. Prospects, as of June 1, indicated a crop of 6,480,000 bushels, or 648,000 bushels above the May 1 forecast. A 1955 Tar Heel wheat crop of 6,480,000 bushels, if realized, would be 13 percent less than the 7,436,000 bushels produced last year.

Condition and yield reports made by growers, as of June 1, indicated an average yield of 20 bushels per acre. This is two bushels less than the average yield per acre last year and compares with the record yield of 23 bushels set in 1951.

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### **RYE PROSPECTS IMPROVE**

Condition and yield reports made by growers, as of June 1, indicated a N. C. rye crop of 266,000 bushels. This is about the same as the 1954 crop of 270,000 bushels.

The average yield per acre is estimated at 14 bushels -- one bushel above the May 1 estimate.

## **CROP OUTLOOK** *(Continued From Page 1)*

start and was reported to be in good condition throughout the entire state. Planting of cotton was about completed but there were some poor stands and considerable replanting had been necessary. Growth and vigor of cotton in the field had been adversely affected by cool nights and by flooding rains in local areas.

The condition of tobacco was quite spotted, with prospects perhaps better for types 11 and 13 than for type 12. Most early planted fields were looking good, but color on some late plantings was not favorable. Here again cool nights and local flooding of fields retarded development of late plantings.

Seeding of peanuts was virtually completed by the first of June and stands appeared to be fairly good. Warmer weather is needed for this crop. Seeding of soybeans was reported to be from 80 - 85 percent complete in the important Coastal Plains area, and about 75 percent complete for the state as a whole. Soybeans were in only fair to good condition around June 1.

Prospects for small grains were somewhat improved as harvest got under way in the Coastal plains. Wheat, oats, barley and rye all responded favorably to the improved moisture conditions during the previous several weeks.

All fruit crops are practically a complete failure as the result of the late March freeze. Apples appear to have been about as badly damaged as were peaches. Pears offer very poor prospects.

Pastures have made some recovery from the adverse effects of last year's drought and the March freeze, but are still in only fair condition.

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## **LARGE CARRYOVER OF FEED GRAIN**

Below average disappearance of feed grains in the U. S. during October-March, from the big supply for the 1954-55 season, left record stocks of feed grains on hand April 1. The total carryover into 1955-56 is now expected to be around one-fifth larger than last year's record of 32 million tons. This will mean another large supply of feed grains next year, if the 1955 growing season is near average. The total stocks expected to be carried over into 1955-56 would be equal to nearly a third of the average

feed grain production of recent years.

Conditions have been generally favorable for feed crops so far this year in most areas of the country. Planting of corn has made good progress in the Corn Belt. Small grains are in good condition from the northern Great Plains to the Atlantic coast, although the March freeze caused damage in areas of the South. Condition of pastures on May 1 was slightly below a year ago, but the hay supply for 1955-56 is expected to be at least as large as last year.



## TOBBACO (Continued From Page 1)

cured will account for about 37 percent of its total disappearance and over four-fifths of the total exports of unmanufactured tobacco.

Domestic consumption of burley, the second ranking cigarette tobacco, in October 1954-September 1955 may be slightly above that of a year earlier. Sizeable quantities of burley are also used in the manufacture of pipe and chewing tobacco. Exports of burley are also likely to be above a year earlier and will probably account for over 7 percent of its total disappearance.

For Maryland, fire-cured, dark air-cured, cigar binder, and shade-grown cigar wrapper, the 1954-55 domestic use of each is expected to be about the same as in 1953-54 but for the continental cigar filler types, may be smaller than a year earlier. The principal domestic outlet for Maryland tobacco is cigarettes; for fire-cured, snuff; and for dark air-cured, chewing tobacco. In the current marketing year, exports of each of these kinds of tobacco except cigar filler and binder are likely to exceed those of a year earlier.

Cigarette output during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1955, is estimated at 406 billion -- about 2 percent lower than in 1953-54. In the year ahead, cigarette consumption is expected to be about the same or perhaps a little higher. During the current fiscal year, retail prices have increased for several leading king size, nonfilter brands, due to price advances by manufacturers. In a few areas, higher State and local tax levies raised retail prices for all cigarettes.

Cigar consumption in 1954-55 is estimated at about 6,055 million, slightly lower than in 1953-54. Cigars are expected to continue above the 6-billion level in the year ahead.

In the year ending June 30, 1955, total leaf tobacco exports are expected to approach 555 million pounds (farm-sales weight) compared with 512 million in 1953-54. Tobacco exports may increase further in 1955-56. Some of this will be due to operations under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act (P. L. 480), which provides for the acceptance of foreign currencies for surplus agricultural products under certain conditions. In general, economic conditions abroad appear favorable to increased tobacco consumption, and there

is a need for larger tobacco stocks in several countries. However, competition from foreign producing areas is increasing, especially from Rhodesia and Canada which are growing and shipping considerably more flue-cured tobacco than a few years ago.

The 1955 acreage allotments for flue-cured, burley, fire-cured, and dark air-cured tobacco are smaller than a year ago. Assuming per acre yields for flue-cured are near the average for recent years it is probably that this year's crop, together with the carryover, will provide a slightly larger total supply for 1955-56 than the record of 1954-55. The 1955-56 total burley supply may be down about 5 percent from the very high 1954-55 figure.

Government price supports for the types under marketing quotas will be 90 percent of parity except for fire-cured (75 percent of the burley loan level) and dark air- and sun-cured (66 2/3 percent of the burley loan level). The minimum levels of price support for the 1955 crops announced in early April by the Department of Agriculture are close to the price supports for the 1954 crops. In every instance, the differences from 1954 supports are less than three-fourths of a cent and mostly less than one-half cent per pound. If the parity prices for the tobaccos eligible for price support should increase by the beginning of the 1955-56 marketing years, the actual price support levels will be recomputed to reflect the increases. If the parities should decline, the minimums become the actual support levels for the 1955 crops.

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## RECORD N. C. EGG PRODUCTION

Production of eggs in North Carolina during May is estimated at 145 million. This represents a seasonal decline of 2 million from the 147 million eggs laid in April but is the largest May production of record for the State. Eggs laid in May of 1954 is estimated at 133 million. The average number of layers on hand during the month is estimated at 7,982,000, which May total has been exceeded only in 1952. Production of 1,817 eggs per 100 layers is contra-seasonally above the average of 1,806 eggs for April and establishes a new record high for May.



## **BROILER PLACEMENTS AT RECORD LEVEL DURING MAY**

During the month of May, broiler chick placements reached an all-time high in the Central-Western Commercial Broiler Areas of N. C. with hatcheries and dealers reporting a total of 6, - 290,000 chicks placed on farms. This compares with 5,707,000 chicks placed during April this year and is 17 percent above the 5,360,000 placed during May a year ago.

For the entire State, placements during May amounted to 6,420,000 or 10 percent more than the 5,833,000 chicks placed during April.

Settings for the month of May were down only slightly from the number of eggs set during April -- indicating that placements will probably continue at about the same level for the next three weeks.

## **MAY MILK PRODUCTION NEAR RECORD LEVEL**

Estimated milk production on farms in N. C. totaled 162 million pounds during May of this year. Production during the month compares with a flow of 149 million pounds during April, the difference representing about the normal seasonal increase. Further, production during May was only one million pounds short of the all-time high for the month which was reached during May of last year.

There were an estimated 367,000 milk cows on farms in the state during May -- 12,000 fewer than in May 1954. Thus, the average production per cow last month was 442 pounds -- the highest of record for any May. For May of 1954, milk cow numbers are estimated at 379, - 000.

## **LONGTIME DECLINE IN USE OF BUTTER, INCREASE IN MARGARINE**

Over the past 2 decades, a substantial shift has occurred in the pattern of consumption of the two major table spreads -- butter and margarine. Butter use declined from 16.8 pounds per person in 1935-39 to 9.0 pounds in 1954. Margarine consumption in the same period rose from 2.8 pounds per person to 8.4 pounds.

Increased consumption of margarine has only partly offset the decline in the consumption of butter. The total use of these products in 1954 was 17.4

pounds per person compared with 19.6 pounds in 1935-39. Several factors may account for this: Other spreads such as mayonnaise and cheese have increased in popularity, and the per capita use of bread and potatoes has declined from the prewar level.

The outlook for 1955 indicates that butter consumption per person may move up slightly as it did from 1953 to 1954. However, as in 1954, the gain may be partly due to increased donations of butter to school lunch and other domestic food programs. Government donations of butter for domestic use rose from 55 million pounds in 1953 to 93 million in 1954. Excluding domestic donations of butter in 1953 and 1954, the per capita use of butter would have been 8.2 and 8.4 pounds, respectively. Total butter use last year exceeded that of margarine, but excluding donations, the two would have been equal. Margarine consumption per person has shown indications recently of leveling off and in 1955 probably will be about the same as the year before.

Many factors in varying degree over the past 20 years led to this shift from butter to margarine. World War II restrictions on the use of butterfat and subsequent rationing of butter to consumers led to a fairly sharp drop in the use of butter during the war. In this same period, consumption of margarine increased somewhat even though it also was under point rationing and production quotas.

The removal of much restrictive legislation on margarine has encouraged greater use of this product. Twenty-two states were still prohibiting the sale of colored margarine in 1947. These included, among others, such populous States as New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, California, Michigan, New Jersey, and Ohio. Currently only Wisconsin and Minnesota bar all sales of the colored product. California and Pennsylvania prohibit its use in public eating places.

In addition, certain restrictive Federal measures on the sale and price of margarine were lifted in 1950. Federal excise taxes of 10 cents per pound on colored margarine and 1/4 cent per pound on the uncolored product were repealed, effective July 1, 1950. The act removing the excise tax also repealed the annual retailers', whole

(See "BUTTER" Page 6)



## **BUTTER** (Continued from Page 5)

salers', and manufacturers' tax imposed on the margarine industry.

The sharp growth in domestic output of vegetable oils in the last 15 years has provided plentiful supplies of oil for use in margarine at comparatively low prices.

Acceptance of margarine has increased over the past several years due to standardization and general improvement of the product. Also important over the postwar period has been the vigorous merchandising and promotional campaign carried on by the margarine industry.

### **PEANUT OUTLOOK DISCUSSED**

The President on May 16 announced another change in the import quota for peanuts for the current fiscal year.

Ordinarily, domestic output of peanuts is more than sufficient to meet all needs at price support levels and import quotas have been in effect in recent years to prevent material interference with the support programs. Peanuts are a basic commodity and support is mandatory. Imports have been limited to 2 million pounds per year. Shelled and unshelled peanuts are subject to import duties of 7 and 4.25 cents per pound, respectively.

This crop year, supplies have been short because drought severely reduced the 1954 crop. As a consequence, the President last March increased the import quota to 53 million pounds, shelled basis, and imposed a fee of 2 cents per pound of shelled peanuts (in addition to the 7 cent duty) on the added 51 million pounds that could be imported. As the supply of peanuts with large kernels seemed to be sufficient, the added quota was limited to the smaller kernels. Also, the additional quota applied only for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1955.

However, the shortage has since appeared to be greater than was assumed earlier in the year and the latest announcement by the President lifts all restrictions on the quantity of shelled peanuts that may be imported. The 2 cent fee per pound of shelled peanuts is retained (making a total of 9 cents when added to the customary import duty). Also, the period during which these peanuts can come in is extended one month -- through July 1955 -- and the limitation on the size of peanuts which can be im-

ported is removed.

On May 4 the Department announced a 7.5 percent increase in the marketing quota and acreage allotments for the 1955 peanut crop. The increase applies to all areas and types of peanuts. The decision to make these increases followed an investigation and hearing, as required by law.

Prices for 1955 crop peanuts will be supported at a national average minimum level of \$244.80 per ton, the same as a year earlier. This is equal to 90 percent of the April 15, 1955 parity.

This is the first year under the Agricultural Act of 1949 as amended that a 90 percent support for peanuts was not mandatory (as long as farmers approved marketing quotas). Support for the 1955 crop can range between 82.5 to 90 percent based upon supply-demand conditions. However, on the basis of the latest estimates of supply-demand conditions support at 90 percent of parity would be required for the 1955 crop.

The principal provisions of the 1955 program are similar to those in effect for the 1954 crop.

### **FARMERS' DECISIONS MAY INFLUENCE SOYBEANS**

Decisions that farmers are now making with regard to the soybeans that they have placed under support programs could have considerable influence on prices, crushings, exports and carryover stocks. Of the 35.2 million bushels still under programs as of mid-April (5.8 million had been redeemed), 15.4 million were warehouse-stored beans. Under the provisions of the support program, unredeemed warehouse-stored beans are taken over by CCC at maturity. If the market price prevailing on the last day for redemptions (May 31) is higher than support plus charges and interest, producers will be paid the difference. Consequently, it would be possible for the Corporation to acquire substantial quantities of warehouse-stored beans even though prices continue moderately above support. (Producers also would have to pay charges and interest costs if they redeemed the beans.) If CCC does acquire a considerable quantity of beans, Government policy as to their disposal will have an important bearing on prices and use of soybeans.

Despite a record crop, prices re-  
(See "SOYBEANS" Page 8)



## WEATHER SUMMARY FOR MAY 1955

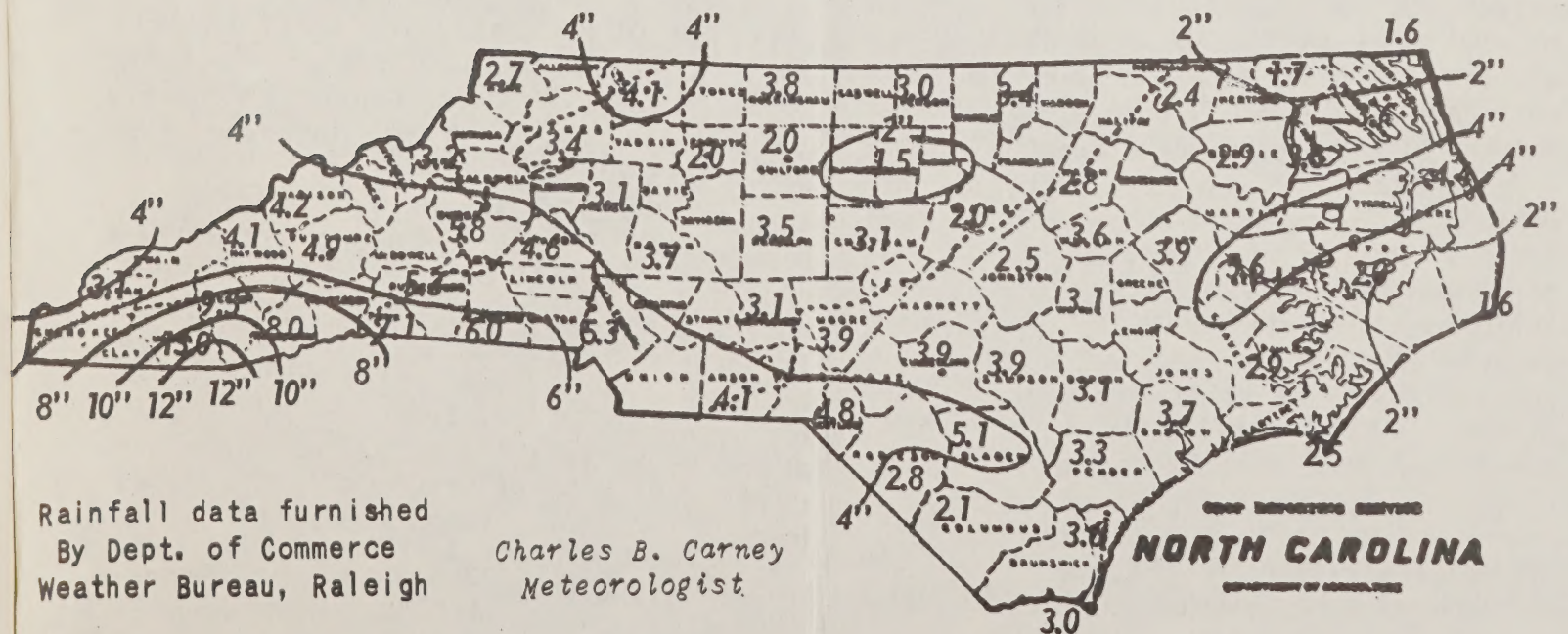
North Carolina weather was dominated during a considerable part of the month of May by high pressure centered at some distance offshore in the Atlantic Ocean. This caused the prevailing southwesterly winds to blow more persistently and at slightly higher average speeds than is usual in May, bringing in a great deal of the scattered thundershower type of weather that is typical of later months. Thunder was heard or lightning seen at some place in the State on at least 21 of the 31 days, and practically all of the precipitation of the month occurred in connection with thundershowers. Under these conditions, periods of heavy general cloudiness were rare, and days entirely without clouds even more rare. Sunshine was abundant, occurring during two-thirds to three-fourths of the daylight hours, depending on the section of the State.

**TEMPERATURES.** In strong contrast with May, 1954, May of this year was a little warmer than long-term averages for the month. About two-thirds of the days of the month had average temperatures of normal or higher for the time of year; yet there were no unusually hot days, and nights were often on the cool side. The longest cool spell occurred near the middle of the month, with a few cool days

near the beginning and again at the end. At most places the lowest temperature of the month came on the morning of the 2nd or 3rd, and ranged in the forties. The highest temperatures recorded were in the low 90's, and occurred about the 5th or the 27th at most stations. The only consistent day-and-night warm weather came during a one-week period ending on the 30th. There were some stations that failed to drop below 70 on one or more nights of that week.

**PRECIPITATION.** Most of the rain during May fell in connection with thundershowers, and so was extremely variable from place to place over North Carolina. Total amounts for the month ranged from below two inches at a number of scattered points up to more than 13 inches in the Coweeta Forest of Macon County. Other places in the southern mountain area received above-normal rainfall, and the southern portions of the rest of the State were fairly well watered. The northern Piedmont was for the most part rather dry, while very spotty rains fell over the Coastal Plain, some stations receiving three times the rain of others in the same or adjoining counties. Average total rainfall over the State as a whole was about four inches, near normal for the month of May.

### INCHES OF RAINFALL, MAY 1955





# FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
*Agricultural Estimates Division*  
*S. R. Newell, Director*

Published by  
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Division of Statistics  
*L. Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture*

Released semi-monthly through the  
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh  
*Henry L. Rasor, Statistician in Charge*

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## SOYBEANS (Continued from Page 6)

ceived by farmers for soybeans in October 1954-February 1955 were relatively stable -- ranging from \$2.54 to \$2.61 per bushel -- and well above the national average support price of \$2.22 per bushel. The stability reflected little change in the total value of the product obtained from the beans, heavy export demand and the slow movement from farms. The farmers' share of the total value of the products was about the same as in the 1951-53 crop years and well above any crop year prior to 1951.

Farm prices have declined about 25 cents per bushel since February, reflecting mainly a 15 percent drop in prices of meal.

Soybean crushings in October 1954-April 1955 totaled about 146 million bushels (April is partly estimated), only

7 million more than last year's low level.

Soybean exports continue to run well above any other year. The total for the October 1954-April 1955 period was about 41.5 million bushels (April is partly estimated), nearly 7 million more than last year's record.

Stocks of soybeans in all positions on April 1 totaled a record 177 million bushels, 30 million more than the previous high on April 1, 1953. Farm stocks also were at a peak indicating that the movement from farms still was comparatively slow. This strong holding action, aided by the placing of 12 percent of the crop under support programs, probably explains why the farmers' share of the total value of the products continues to be relatively high.